



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1347

LCO No. 4316

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Workforce
Development

Introduced by:
(WFD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE FUNDED WORK-STUDY PROGRAM
FOR TANF RECIPIENTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) For purposes of this act:

2 (1) "Needy person" means any parent or caretaker relative of a
3 minor child who is a member of a needy family, as defined by the state
4 plan for the temporary assistance for needy families program.

5 (2) "Eligible participant" means a person who is currently receiving
6 benefits from the temporary family assistance program or any other
7 needy person, whether or not such person is currently enrolled in an
8 eligible training program.

9 (3) "Eligible training program" means any training program
10 administered or operated by an eligible provider, as defined in section
11 31-111 of the general statutes, or any training or education program
12 offered by an accredited public institution of higher education in this
13 state.

14 (b) The Labor Department shall:

15 (1) Establish a state funded work-study program for needy persons
16 in eligible training programs;

17 (2) Provide transportation assistance to needy persons participating
18 in the state funded work-study program established pursuant to
19 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

20 (3) Provide case management and such other support services as the
21 Labor Commissioner deems necessary to needy persons participating
22 in the state funded work-study program established pursuant to
23 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

24 (c) In administering the state funded work-study program
25 established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section,
26 the Labor Department shall (1) give priority for participation to eligible
27 participants whose family incomes are at or below the federal poverty
28 level, (2) reserve fifteen per cent of all available work-study positions
29 for eligible participants seeking to enroll in training and education
30 programs for nontraditional occupations, as identified by the United
31 States Department of Labor, (3) require eligible participants to enroll in
32 training and education programs that prepare job seekers for
33 occupations in demand in this state, as defined by the Labor
34 Department, (4) require that the rate of compensation paid to eligible
35 participants participating in the work-study program be not less than
36 the minimum fair wage set forth in section 31-58 of the general statutes
37 and not more than nine dollars per hour, (5) make work-study
38 positions subject to the worker displacement provisions of Section 407
39 of Title IV of the Social Security Act, and (6) structure the work-study
40 program to enable an eligible participant's family to be independent of
41 temporary family assistance by the end of the twenty-one-month time
42 limit for such assistance and increase the participant's ability to achieve
43 economic self-sufficiency.

44 (d) To be eligible to participate in the state funded work-study
45 program established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of
46 this section, an eligible participant shall (1) enroll in and attend an

47 eligible training program on at least a half-time basis, as defined by the
48 eligible provider, or (2) if the eligible training program is administered
49 by a public institution of higher education, take sufficient courses to
50 qualify for a Federal Pell Grant.

51 (e) Eligible participants may participate in the state funded work-
52 study program for at least thirty-two weeks and may participate for
53 longer periods of time with prior approval from the Labor Department
54 and the administrator of the eligible training program or public
55 institution of higher education.

56 (f) The Labor Commissioner shall adopt regulations as are necessary
57 to carry out the provisions of this section.

58 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is
59 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

60 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
61 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
62 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
63 who is working, attending high school, participating in a work-study
64 program pursuant to section 1 of this act, or who receives cash
65 assistance under the temporary family assistance program from the
66 Department of Social Services and is participating in an approved
67 education, training, or other job preparation activity. Services available
68 under the child care program shall include the provision of child care
69 subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the
70 age of nineteen with special needs.

71 Sec. 3. The sum of one million dollars is appropriated to the Labor
72 Department, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for purposes of
73 establishing and operating a work-study program pursuant to section
74 1 of this act.

75 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish and operate a work-study program for TANF recipients.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]